

keep up the morale of our troops during WWII. But more importantly, we owe them the respect they never received.

Mr. Speaker, these men and women lost their lives too soon for a country that hasn't done a great job of remembering their bravery and their sacrifices.

An analysis conducted by the Army showed that the average age of African American service members buried at the NAC is 27 years—the prime age when a young person is starting their life.

That is why it is so important for us to remember and tell their stories during Black History Month.

As Black History Month continues, I hope my colleagues will consider joining me in honoring their memories by also speaking on the Floor about other all-Black battalions who fought during WWII.

As the daughter of a WWII and Korean Veteran, I am very honored to be on the Military-Veterans Appropriations Subcommittee to ensure our veterans receive the care and recognition they deserve.

Let me close by thanking our Military-Veterans Chair, Congressman CHARLIE DENT and then Ranking Member SANFORD BISHOP and then full Committee Chair ROGERS and Ranking Member LOWEY, for their support in the Appropriations Committee and the commission for helping bring these great heroes and sheros to the attention of the American people and by properly recognizing their sacrifices and their legacies.

Hopefully this effort will help us locate their descendants and families to and thank them and honor them as part of yes—Black History but of course this is American History that all Americans should recognize and learn from.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chair of our subcommittee, Mr. DENT, Ranking Member LOWEY, Mr. BISHOP, and you, Mr. ROGERS, for your support in the Appropriations Committee and for the American Battle Monuments Commission's very dedicated work in helping us bring these great heroes and sheros to the attention of the American people by properly recognizing their sacrifices and their legacies.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 45 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Loving God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

The Psalmist cannot find enough words to express trust in You. Personal

experience of Your presence, care, and abiding guidance gives rise to his song: "O Lord, my rock, my fortress, my deliverer. My God, my rock of refuge, my shield, the fullness of my salvation, my stronghold."

Stir in our hearts today Your Holy Spirit. Touch the soul of this Nation, that we may see Your saving work in our work, Your strength behind our weakness, Your purpose in our efforts at laws of justice, Your peace drawing all of us and the world to lasting freedom.

You are ever faithful, O Lord, worthy of all our trust. May all that is done in the people's House be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. NEWHOUSE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 16, 2017.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER RYAN: This letter is to inform you, in your role as Speaker, that I have today sent a letter to my Governor resigning my seat in Congress. A duplicate of that letter is attached.

I am truly honored that President Trump has given me the opportunity to lead the Office of Management and Budget. The opportunity to work with such a talented and intelligent group of people—in an effort to try to restore our country's fiscal security—was too good to pass up. It does, however, come at the price of leaving the House.

I am thankful for the efforts you made on my behalf in this effort. I am thankful for the leadership you have shown during my time in the House. But, more than all of that, I am thankful for your friendship over the last six years. Working with you—as a Chairman and the Speaker—will forever be one of the highlights of my career.

I sincerely hope my resignation is not the end of that relationship. Indeed, I choose to see it as simply the next chapter of our mutual effort to try to serve the nation.

All the best. Thanks again. And God Bless.
Sincerely,

MICK MULVANEY.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 16, 2017.

Hon. HENRY McMASTER,
Governor, State of South Carolina,
Columbia, SC.

DEAR GOVERNOR McMASTER: Earlier today I was confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as President Trump's Director of the Office of Management and Budget. Assuming this office requires me to resign my position as the United States Representative for the 5th Congressional District of South Carolina.

It has been a great honor and personal privilege to represent the people of South Carolina in Congress. The people of my district, and of our state, are some of the nicest, hardest working people I've ever met. They care deeply about our state and our nation, and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to have been able to serve them.

However, the opportunity to work directly with the President in his Cabinet to shape our nation's budget and ensure financial stability for generations to come is a call to service I simply cannot ignore. I am truly honored that President Trump has given me this opportunity.

So, in hopes that I can better serve our nation, the President, the people of the 5th Congressional District, and the state of South Carolina, I hereby tender my resignation as United States Representative, effective immediately.

Thank you for your service to our state and your continued friendship.

Respectfully,

MICK MULVANEY,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. MULVANEY), the whole number of the House is 431.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF GARY PETERSEN

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of my dear friend, and fellow WSU alumnus, Mr. Gary Petersen.

Following his graduation in 1965, Gary began a distinguished career on behalf of our country and notable Washington institutions, such as the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Hanford, Energy Northwest, the State Department, and, recently, as vice president of the Tri-City Development Council.

For 5 decades, Gary has been a devoted advocate for the Tri-Cities, and his efforts have been critical to the area's growth and development. He is also an unwavering proponent of PNNL and the defense nuclear waste cleanup mission at Hanford. In Congress, Gary has provided me with critical counsel, while generously serving on my Hanford Working Group.

His integrity and distinguished career were recognized with his 2013 induction into WSU's Murrow Alumni Hall of Achievement.

I am honored to call Gary a friend, and will be forever grateful for his patriotism and dedicated service to the Tri-Cities and our great Nation.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BOB OLIVER

(Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I have the personal pleasure and honor of saying a few words about a leader in our community who has dedicated his life to the betterment of others.

Bob Oliver is the president and CEO of Otsuka America Pharmaceutical, Inc., which is a healthcare company based in my district in Princeton, New Jersey. Bob's strategic leadership over the last 7 years has been instrumental in developing a diverse portfolio of marketed products, specifically focusing on neuroscience, cardio-renal, and oncology. He is personally passionate about helping others and those who care for them.

He has worked for over 40 years helping others navigate the healthcare system more easily and has publicly addressed mental health stigma, disparity in healthcare treatment, and the future of health care using technology advancements. He has worked closely with local advocacy groups to aid veterans and other individuals struggling with homelessness, mental illness, addiction, and poverty.

In addition to being a community partner, through his leadership role at Otsuka, he has been instrumental in driving economic growth in the pharmaceutical sector, as well as creating job opportunities in my State.

Most recently, he was featured as one of Ebony Magazine's Power 100, an esteemed panelist with CNN's Fareed Zakaria, and a featured leader in

Forbes Magazine. The journey is just beginning as he closes this chapter in Otsuka and proceeds to move forward in his life.

He has made us very proud. We are proud to take this moment to address his accomplishments and to thank him for his lifetime of achievement. We wish him the best of luck and Godspeed.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BILL COOPER

(Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the life of Bill Cooper. Bill was a leader, innovator, philanthropist, and a friend, and he lived the American Dream.

He grew up in Detroit, where he worked as a police officer while earning a degree in accounting. His career in banking brought him to Minnesota in 1985, when he became CEO of Twin Cities Federal. He transformed this small savings and loan into a thriving national bank.

Bill worked to ensure that all children also had access to a quality education by founding the Friends of Education, which sponsors 15 schools and serves more than 9,000 children.

Bill was a defining force as well in Minnesota politics. He always stood up for conservative principles and served as chairman of the State Republican Party from 1997 to 1999.

Bill Cooper left his mark on Minnesota, and he will be deeply missed by all of us who knew him.

ALL PERPETRATORS OF CHILD ABUSE MUST BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE

(Ms. DELBENE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing important legislation to ensure that all perpetrators of child abuse are held accountable. It closes a Federal loophole that wrongly denies justice for some survivors, like Penny Saum from Washington State.

Last month, I heard from Penny directly about the horrific abuses she faced at the hands of her father. He was convicted, sentenced to prison, and ordered to pay \$5 million in damages. But because he is a military retiree, Federal law has shielded him from paying a cent of the restitution that he owes. It is unacceptable.

Congress already passed a law in 1994, holding Federal retirees accountable for abusing a child. Now it is our responsibility to apply the same standard to all perpetrators.

I am honored to be working with my colleague from Washington State, Congresswoman HERRERA BEUTLER, to

close this heartbreaking loophole. In these challenging times, this is exactly the kind of bipartisan solution we can all work together on.

RARE DISEASES ARE NOT A RARE PROBLEM

(Mr. BILIRAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the 30 million Americans affected by a rare disease. An astounding 95 percent of rare diseases have no approved treatments or cures. My bill, the OPEN Act, seeks to change that.

The OPEN Act provides incentives for drug makers to repurpose major market treatments for rare disease patients. It could open the door for a surge in biotechnology jobs and investment. Most importantly, the OPEN Act would help make sure those suffering from a rare condition can finally find safe, effective, affordable medication.

I was inspired to write the OPEN Act after meeting with folks who live with rare diseases, like Ashleigh Pike, Candace Lerman, and Kelly Freeman from Florida. The ideas that shaped this legislation came from those who it will help most, rare disease patients. After all, rare diseases are not a rare problem.

The OPEN Act has the potential to bring hope to millions of patients and their families.

NEW MARKET TAX CREDITS

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the new market tax credits have helped inject new economic viability into my western New York community. The program continues to help revitalize economically distressed cities throughout America; in western New York, more than \$300 million in private investment in the past decade that would not have occurred without the tax credit program.

Historically and architecturally significant buildings like the Electric Tower and Asbury Hall in downtown Buffalo are buzzing with new residential and commercial life. Most recently, Roswell Park Cancer Institute, the Nation's first cancer center, opened their new clinical sciences building with the help of the new market tax credit program.

I urge my colleagues to support my legislation to make the new market tax credits permanent.

OBAMACARE IS FAILING PATIENTS

(Mr. BUCSHON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)